REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**."

The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], in which one or more of the gateways communicate a respective delay time to a control node and the step of selecting one of the gateways is carried out by the control node.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 in which the packets are Internet Protocol (IP) packets.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 in which the circuit- switched network is an ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) network.

7. (Amended) A control node for use in a method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, the control node including a control processor and a signalling interface, which signalling interface, in use, communicates signals with a plurality of gateways in a circuit-switched network, the control processor being arranged to carry out the following steps in sequence:

a) communicating instructions to the plurality of gateways to transmit polling messages to a destination address in a circuit-switched network connected to the gateways;

b) receiving from the plurality of gateways indications of respective delays in responses to the polling messages:

c) selecting, depending on the respective delays, one of the gateways as the end-point of a virtual circuit.

8. (Amended) A gateway for use in a method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, the gateway including a first interface for connection to a

packet-switched network, a second interface for connection to a circuit-switched network, and a control processor including a control interface arranged to communicate control signals with a control node, the control processor being arranged to carry out the following steps in sequence:

a) in response to a control message from the control mode transmitting a polling message to a destination address in the circuit-switched network;

b) receiving a reply from the destination address and determining the delay of the reply;

c) communicating the reply to the control node.

9. A communications network including a control node according to claim 7 and a gateway [according to claim 8] comprising:

a first interface for connection to a packet-switched network, a second interface for connection to a circuit-switched network, and a control processor including a control interface arranged to communicate control signals with a control node, the control processor being arranged to carry out the following steps in sequence:

a) in response to a control message from the control mode transmitting a polling message to a destination address in the circuit-switched network;

b) receiving a reply from the destination address and determining the delay of the reply;

c) communicating the reply to the control node.